GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:443
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015
Illegal Encroachment of Forest Land
Biswas Shri Radheshyam

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware about illegal encroachment of forest land in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether around 52,800 hectares of forest area had been allegedly encroached by Nagaland anti-social groups across the Nagaland-Assam Border; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to vacate the encroached lands and also to stop encroachment of the forest land in the country including Assam?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (d): As per report received by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change from the Government of Assam, 3,172.15 Sq Km forest area is under encroachment since long.

As per report the boundary between the State of Assam and Nagaland has been defined in the State of Nagaland Act, 1962, read in consonance with the Naga Hills Tuensang Area Act, 1957 and Govt. Notification No. 3102/R; dated 25.11.1925. Further, the interstate border of Assam-Nagaland is disputed and the matter is within the purview of the Supreme Court of India. Moreover, as per the bilateral agreement between the Chief Ministers of the two states, status quo is being maintained in the disputed border areas of Assam and Nagaland, therefore, no eviction could be done in those Reserved Forest areas.

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Government of Assam has filed Original Suit No. 2/88 & 1/89 in the Supreme Court of India for demarcation of boundaries between the State of Assam-Nagaland & Assam- Arunachal Pradesh. The Local Commission was appointed by the Supreme Court for identification of boundaries between the States of Assam-Nagaland and Assam-Arunachal Pradesh. This Local Commission has submitted its report with respect to Assam-Arunachal boundary issue. Now, the Supreme Court has directed for initiation of procedure of Suit. The matter, therefore, is subjudice.

Protection and Management of Forests is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State / Union Territory Government. The action to remove encroachment is taken by respective State / Union Territory Governments as per the provisions of various Acts such as Indian Forest Act, 1927; Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and relevant State Acts & Regulations. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Supplements the efforts of the States in protection and management of forests through Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Intensification of Forest management Scheme.

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